

warp and weft

Vol. XXI, No. 7

September, 1968

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A Word from the Editor:

Two months of rest have passed. At least that was the intention when the July and August issues were discontinued 10 years ago. However, this has been a hectic summer, and I suppose that for anyone in business, most times are busy ones.

I should tell you that for the past 6 years, Robin has been busy canning some of our local fruits every summer, except this year. This year, we had two fairly late frosts, so we had no cherries, no peaches, no pears, and no plums. This is the first time in six years, but it doesn't seem like summer without these many fruits that we normally have each summer.

Janice, our daughter, took 3 weeks off and went to camp in Canada again, with Robin and I driving up and back twice and hauling the horse trailer for her. What a task this is, and not a very pleasant one as far as your editor is concerned.

Janice also has been a great help in the shop this summer, and worked every day of vacation until she went to camp, and now that she is back, she has been working 8 hours a day, almost every day to help pay for her camp, to buy new clothes for school, etc. She and Robin have been exceedingly busy also sewing, and making new outfits for Janice for school.

Robin and I had a very delightful 5 days in the Canadian Rockies in the Lake O'Hara region of Yoho National Park. We climbed to the top of one peak each day, and revelled in the beauty that was unfolded when we reached the high spots. We found one lake which

Page 2

was still ice-covered in early August, and saw mountain sheep, conies, and elk and moose and other wild-life. We two did this one of the weeks when Janice was at camp.

Also, the time in the shop has been busy. We wove 2 eleven yard lengths for warp and weft samples, and two lengths of 8 yards each for drafts and designs, and experimented and worked out two or three other patterns for each of the two bulletins. Besides Janice and Robin, we had a college student and a high school student working part time, and they have made about 10,000 sample sheets during these past two months. We charge \$1.25 for our current set of sample sheets, and I know that it has cost us over \$300.00 these past two months to have these made, and when there are 10 to 15 sheets in each set, you know that we do not break anywhere even on the making of the samples. However, I do realize that if we do want the public to know what yarns we have for sale, we must continually work on making these up.

My wish is that I personally would have much more time for experimenting and trying different threads, and weaves, and designing patterns. However, it seems as though what little of this I do get done, I have to do it by either coming to work early, or staying late in order to accomplish these things.

Also, this summer, we have had about 8 different students coming in at odd times and taking lessons and working on their various projects. So, with all of these activities, you can see that it has been a pleasantly busy time here in the studio of Robin & Russ.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph:

The cover photograph this month is a close-up of a shadow weave which I saw at the Midwest Weaving Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma this past summer. If I remember correctly, it was an 8 harness weave in shades of greens and yellows and was woven by Elizabeth Tenney, of St. Louis, Missouri.

I thought it was one of the striking pieces in the show, and I'm not sure, but believe it was woven into an afghan or lap robe.

This Month's Book Review:

This month we want to tell you about a book that has just been republished, and which has been out of print for at least 7 to 10 years.

It is the book entitled "SPIDER WOMAN" and is the story of a white woman who wants to learn the ways of the Navaho and particularly to learn all she can about their weaving and chanting, and all of the things that happen to her when she goes to live with a Navaho family.

This is most fascinating reading, telling about the day to day living of the Navaho's, and of every event that takes place therein.

This book is actually the story of living with the Navaho's about 6 to 8 years, and of the author's experiences in this time, learning to weave the Navaho blankets, learning to card and to spin the wool for these blankets, and learning how to dye the wool, and how and where to collect the dyestuffs.

You will enjoy this book immensely, as it is very pleasant reading, and you will learn all about the family that adopted Mrs. Reichard and agreed to teach her how to spin and weave as the Navaho's do. You will enjoy the experiences of Mrs. Reichard as she weaves her first rug, and realizes the many faults of her first weaving, and then her struggle during the six summers to improve and learn and then finally to teach the Navaho's a little variety in pattern weaving to make their blankets more beautiful and interesting. As you are reading this, you will also be interested spectators at a Navaho wedding, you will learn a little about sandpainting, and you will learn much about the weaving. You will learn how the loom is made, how the warp is spun, and how tension is maintained on the loom, you will learn the problems that a weaver encounters on this type of an upright loom, and most important of all, you will learn how to solve these problems.

I'm afraid that I can't tell you how much I enjoyed this book, but just that you should read it, and I feel it will bring you as much pleasure as it did me.

TITLE: Spider Woman. A story of Navaho Weavers and Chanters.

AUTHOR: Gladys A. Reichard

PUBLISHER: The Rio Grande Press.

COST: \$8.00 plus 18 cents postage.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers.

A Saddle Blanket Project:

Just before going to camp this summer, Janice wanted to make a saddle blanket for her horse Rainy Day. It was decided to make it 32"x72", or twice the size of the regular saddle blanket, as she wanted to fold it over and have two thicknesses of saddle blanket. So, we used for warp an 18/2 natural grey Irish Linen. It took 1 pound of this linen for warp, and it was set at 12 threads per inch. In the weaving, we decided to use a straight twill, and use a 1/3 twill treadling. This means that we had 1 thread up, and 3 down in the treadling. Just one harness was tied to each of the treadles. Treadle number 1 was tied to harness number 1; treadle number 2 was tied to harness number 2; treadle number 3 was tied to harness number 3; and treadle number 4 was tied to harness number 4. It was then treadled 1, 2, 3, 4 over and over, and of course, the threading was 1, 2, 3, 4 over and over.

We used the heavy 6 ply English Rug Wool that we are importing for weft, and it took exactly 3 pounds of this for weft on the finished blanket of 30"x72". As Janice's horse is a Palomino, we used a beige, a gold, and a natural in the weft in the rug yarn, and it was woven in stripes. This English 6 ply rug wool is \$4.00 per pound, or \$1.00 per 4 ounce skein. Thus the weft cost was \$12.00, the warp cost was \$4.00, and the total cost of the double size saddle blanket was \$16.00.

On this particular blanket, you want to use an extra firm beat, or a double beat, quite firm, and beat tightly to pack in and make a good firm fabric. With the 1/3 twill treadling, we were able to pack in the weft very tightly, and as a result, had a very good, durable saddle blanket.

AMBER GLOW

This is a pattern with a sort of rib effect in wool yardage. The warp and weft are imported, fine english worsted yarns.

WARP:

The warp is a 2/27's worsted yarn, with 7,500 yards per pound. It is spun in England, and the color is Amber, color number 226.

WEFT:

There are two colors of the 2/27's worsted yarn used in the weft. The white 2/27's is used to set off the ribs created by the 2/27's amber color.

REED USED:

A 12 dent reed was used, and it was sleyed 3 ends per dent, or 36 threads per inch.

THREADING DRAFT:

4			X			X
3	X		X	X		X
2		X	X		X	X
1		X			X	

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

1. Treadle No. 1, 2/27's Amber
2. Treadle No. 2, 2/27's White
3. Treadle No. 3, 2/27's Amber
4. Treadle No. 4, 2/27's White
5. Treadle No. 5, 2/27's Amber
6. Treadle No. 6, 2/27's White
7. Treadle No. 5, 2/27's Amber
8. Treadle No. 4, 2/27's White
9. Treadle No. 3, 2/27's Amber
10. Treadle No. 2, 2/27's White

END OF ONE PATTERN REPEAT. Repeat over and over as desired.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4		O		O		O
3	O			O		O
2	O		O			O
1	O		O		O	
	1	2	3	4	5	6

MORE ABOUT THIS SAMPLE:

First of all, I must mention that this sample was inspired by a piece woven by Miss Esther Tuttle of Darien, Connecticut. This piece was

SAMPLE:



in one of the travelling exhibitions that came to the Portland Handweavers Guild.

I will also say that we have taken many liberties, and changed the threads used, and it is an entirely different fabric than that sample we saw, but it does certainly help to have ideas from other sources to help inspire one to work out a new and different project.

Since the fine worsted yarns seem to be disappearing off the market here in the U.S., we were glad to be able to find a source of 2/27's worsted last summer on our trip to England. We have imported just a little of this so far to experiment with, and have enjoyed it.

This is a fine 2/27's worsted yarn, with 7,500 yards per pound. It comes on 2 pound cones from the supplier in England, and at present they have 30 different colors available. We have just so far imported a few pounds of these, but if you are interested, we will send you our sample card (If YOU PROMISE TO RETURN IT), so that you can see the colors available, and order if you wish. We do hope to eventually stock more of this, but it will take us time and more important, money, before we can stock more of this. We will order it for you on special orders with delivery in about 6 weeks.

In this particular sample this month, I feel that we should have used a 2/18's worsted in the weft in place of the 2/27's amber color. This would have definitely made the pattern we were trying to bring out, stand out a little better than this fine weight does. However, this fine weight material is very nice also, and should be ideal for tailored skirts, suits, and suit coats.

In weaving this fabric, you want to use a selvage of cotton or silk or some strong fiber on each selvage edge. We suggest that you use 4 selvage threads, and thread it 4, 3, 2, 1. Do not wind this selvage thread on the warp beam with the 2/27's worsted, but put on an Add-A-Warp Clip Spool or some other such device, as the wool will stretch and your selvage of cotton or silk would not stretch the same amount if both were on the warp beam.

On this fabric, you want to use a soft, double beat. Our suggestion, once again, is to beat with the shed open—lightly—change to the next shed and beat lightly the second time before you throw the shuttle.

On this 2/27's worsted, we found that too tight a tension and too hard a beat will tend to fray the warp threads apart. However, if you use the light beat, and not too tight a tension, you should have no trouble at all. Because it is so fine, 7,500 yards per pound, this warp of worsted wool is fairly fragile. Remember, this is almost as fine as a 20/2 cotton with 8,400 yards per pound.

COSTS OF THE THREADS USED:

This 2/27's worsted sells for \$6.80 per

pound on 2 pound cones here in the states. Just a few colors are on hand, but if you are interested and want to order some or any of the 30 colors on 2 pound cones, we will be pleased to send you the sample card to see the colors available, and we will then order it for you. Delivery is about 6 weeks from date of order. Duty is prepaid by Robin & Russ.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

We had a warp, 42" wide, and 11 yards long. It took 2 pounds, 2 ounces of the 2/27's worsted at \$6.80 per pound or \$14.45 for the 11 yards of warp. The cost per yard comes to \$1.32

In the weft, we used 1 pound, 4 ounces each of the white and amber glow color. Thus, we used 2 pounds, 8 ounces of 2/27's in the weft or the total weft cost was \$17.00. I'm sorry to say, but I don't remember whether there was 9½ or 10 yards of finished fabric, but will act as if there was 10 yards, and the total weft cost divided by 10 gives you a weft cost per yard of \$1.70.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.32
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$1.70
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$3.02

A FABRI TYPE YARN, 2/18's Worsted, to be available again soon.

We are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements with a company in England to make a yarn as close in size, in strength, and elasticity as the 2/18's FABRI, that was formerly put out by Bernat.

We are ordering for our initial order, 1,000 pounds of yarn. This will be 100 pounds in white, and then 900 pounds dyed in lots of 50 pounds each of 18 different colors. We then hope in our next order to order about 10 new colors, until we have a line of about 30 to 35 colors in the 2/18's FABRI-TYPE YARN.

We have woven with a sample of this yarn, and its size, its elasticity and strength are definitely very comparable to fabri. Actually, it will be slightly stronger than Fabri was, and

it has almost the same elasticity, and we are delighted to say that it will be available on 1/2 pound cones of a color. The price will be the same as what fabri used to sell for, at \$6.80 per pound retail.

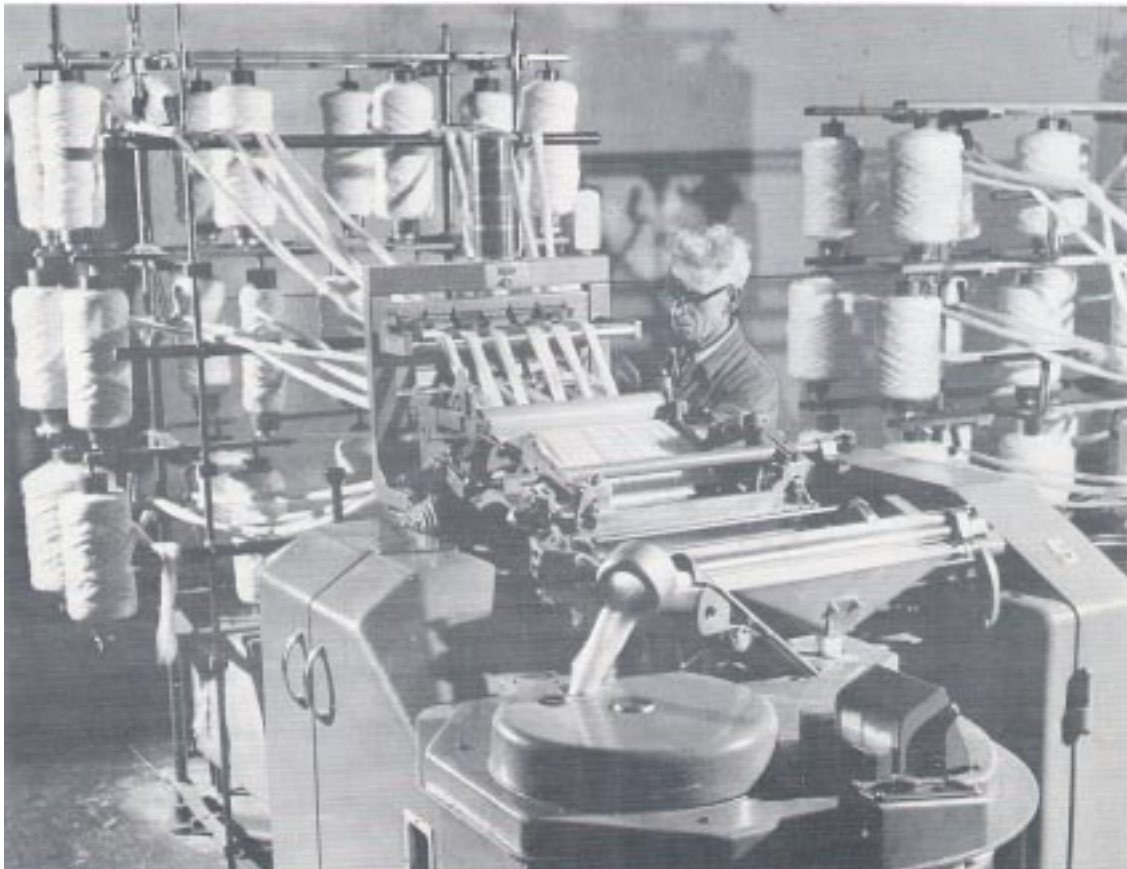
We are extremely delighted that we have been able to make these arrangements, and will have this superior type of 2/18's worsted once again available.

One more comment is that we are choosing to have dyed a few more modern and up to date colors than were in the fabri line, and we hope that you will like our choice of colors.

As soon as we do receive this shipment of 1,000 pounds of yarn in about 2 months, we will make up sample sheets, and mail them out, so that you can see what the color range will be like.

REMEMBER—2/18's FABRI-TYPE YARNS
will be available soon.

We are pleased to be able to show you a few illustrations in the coming months of some of the various stages that take place in the production of the fabri-type yarns that we expect to have shortly. The first picture here is considered by many to be one of the key operations in the production of worsted yarns, and it is the combing process. Up to this stage, the wool sliver consists of wool fibers of varying lengths, some of them very short. This machine, a French (or rectilinear) comb, extracts the short fibers and lays the longer ones in parallel formation. This picture was taken at one of the very modern worsted mills in England.



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NAVAJO SHEPHERD AND WEAVER

In print once again, this fine book is for sale at the same price as when it went out of print about 4 years ago. It is \$8.00 per copy plus 18 cents postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

25/1 NATURAL GRAY LINEN & BLEACHED ALSO

This 25/1 linen is available in the natural gray and bleached white. It has 7500 yards per lb. The normal use is for weft, but several of our customers have been using it for warp. On sale at a good low price of \$3.20 per lb. On 1/2 lb. tubes. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SLUBBY WOOL WITH REINDEER HAIR

This yarn is available in 4 luscious colors. It has about 1,100 yards per lb. Available in natural with gold flecks, in a gold medor color, in a tan, and in a gold and brown combination. \$4.00 per lb. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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These beautiful handmade pins of miniature shuttles are getting hard to find. Price is \$2.25 each, plus 10 cents postage while they last. Available in Italian Pear and a few in Maple. Each miniature shuttle pin has a small bobbin with thread wound on it. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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These are beautifully made and resemble the Tibetan tapestry beater. Prongs are made of tempered aluminum on a wooden hardwood handle. Durable—will not mark fabric—can be used for rug or tapestry beaters. \$6.50 plus p.p. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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At long last, we have been able to get a new stock of add a warp clip spools. Price is \$1.95 plus postage. If you make a mistake and forget a thread, or want to add a new warp thread of different color or texture, use one of these add a warp clip spools. You can control the tension on these also. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

IMPORTED CANADIAN WOOL CARDS

These are rather coarse, Canadian wool cards, for carding your wool for spinning. We have sold these for about 6 to 8 years now. Price is \$8.50 per pair, plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HOPIDYES

New to us, is this book of the Hopi Indians Natural Dyes. It is quite complete, has many dye formulas, which are divided by color. A good addition to the natural dye books on the market. Price is \$3.50 plus 18 cents postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE NEW KEY TO WEAVING

by Mary Black is considered by many the best book for the beginning and intermediate weaver there is. Chock full of useful information, patterns, instructions for many types of weaving. Has a section on tapestry, as well as conventional 4 harness and a few multiple harness patterns. Excellent studies of some of the different weaves. Regular price is \$12.00 plus 24 cents postage, Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St.

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